



# Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 8, 2011

## STORMS AND FLOODING CONTINUE TO SIGNIFICANTLY DELAY PLANTING

Farmers in East Tennessee were busy assessing storm damage last week as farmers in other areas braced for the effects of widespread flooding. Several acres of wheat were in standing water by week’s end. Departures from normal rainfall totals have reached double-digit levels for most areas of West Tennessee. Corn planting is three weeks behind average. While hay and forage grasses have experienced robust growth, hay cutting has also been delayed. Wheat producers that were able to get into their fields were busy applying fungicide last week to combat the threat posed by excessively damp soil. Cotton planting progress stands at only 2 percent, two and one-half weeks behind normal. Full-season soybean planting had just started at week’s end, about two weeks late.

There was an average of 2 days suitable for fieldwork across the state last week. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 52 percent adequate and 48 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 50 percent adequate and 50 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged 3 to 5 degrees below normal. Precipitation levels were near normal for East and Middle Tennessee, while West Tennessee received well above-normal rainfall.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2010	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Apples – Blooming or Beyond	97	89	95	98	Apples	0	0	13	78	9
Corn – Planted	42	38	88	86	Hay	1	8	26	52	13
Corn – Emerged	29	23	72	64	Pastures	0	4	22	58	16
Cotton – Planted	2	2	13	17	Strawberries	0	3	15	69	13
Soybeans – Planted	1	n/a	10	10	Winter Wheat	1	4	15	55	25
Hay – First Cutting	4	n/a	8	10						
Winter Wheat – Headed	91	67	68	81						

n/a = not available

### County Agent Comments

*“Wheat that is not affected by flood waters continues to look good and progressing well. If rainy periods continue through May we may be faced with some disease outbreaks even though fungicide applications have been applied on several acres. Flooding continues to be our biggest issue. Currently, the estimated land area flooded in the county is 170-180,000 acres.”*

**Tim Campbell, Dyer County**

*“Not much has changed from last week. Timely rains continue to keep farmers out of fields. However, the rain is excellent for pasture and hay, if farmers can harvest hay without getting it wet. I expect large acreages of corn to be planted this week.”*

**J.C. Dupree, Jr., Lauderdale County**

*“Farmers finally got some sunshine this week and were able to apply fungicides to wheat. Powdery mildew is active in many wheat fields. Strawberry harvest began last week but heavy rains have damaged some early berries. Tobacco plants in greenhouses are in good condition and growers should be able to begin transplanting next week if weather forecast doesn't change.”*

**Paul Hart, Robertson County**

*“Wet weather continues to delay field work, including tobacco transplanting, corn planting, and weed control. Some pasture growth is getting ahead of grazing.”*

**David K. Glover, Smith County**

*“Much of the forages in the tornado-affected areas are unusable for pasture or hay due to building materials and glass littering hundreds of acres. Wheat was flattened in some of these areas. Three separate tornadoes were on the ground for an estimated total distance of 30 miles.”*

**Milton Orr, Greene County**

*“An EF2 Tornado hit a 12 mile path through Johnson County on April 28, killing 2 and damaging numerous homes. Many acres of timber were destroyed along with many farm buildings (barns, equipment sheds, etc). Fences were also damaged and some livestock were killed in the storm. Damage assessments are being conducted and the county has been declared a federal disaster area.”*

**Rick Thomason, Johnson County**

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION  
For week ending: May 8, 2011 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending May 8, 2011				Current Week 5/8/11	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
West										
Ames_Plantation	79	42	60	-7	1.54	4	27.70	6.80	15.18	8.05
Brownsville_TN	81	42	60	-7	5.11	2	30.74	10.04	18.16	11.26
Covington	77	43	57	-9	5.76	5	30.96	10.25	18.94	11.91
Dyersburg	77	45	59	-8	4.25	4	27.77	8.98	14.60	8.63
Huntingdon_Wate	75	40	57	-8	4.36	3	31.54	11.76	17.23	11.21
Jackson_Exp_Stn	76	41	59	-6	3.70	4	28.55	8.72	16.71	10.16
Lexington_TN	75	40	58	-7	2.26	2	25.66	6.50	14.13	8.16
Martin	78	38	57	-8	4.72	3	32.82	13.26	16.37	10.05
Memphis_AG	81	41	60	-9	5.51	4	31.02	10.67	19.40	12.54
Milan	76	40	58	-7	5.80	3	31.73	11.76	17.78	11.43
Paris	72	38	55	-9	5.77	6	35.17	15.57	19.18	13.09
Savannah_6SW	79	40	60	-7	2.08	4	29.00	6.59	14.46	7.51
Selmer	82	39	60	-5	1.97	4	27.64	5.43	15.31	8.34
Union_City	73	41	56	-8	6.22	3	31.33	12.06	16.16	10.07
Middle										
Clarksville_Sew	72	38	56	-8	3.25	4	29.99	10.76	15.50	9.92
Cookeville	80	35	56	-6	2.32	4	30.44	9.35	13.97	7.91
Crossville_AP	76	31	56	-4	0.93	2	23.38	2.19	8.73	2.56
Dickson_AG	85	36	58	-7	2.02	2	28.20	7.80	13.03	6.64
Dover_1W	71	39	57	-7	4.99	5	36.81	16.72	20.22	14.03
Fayetteville_TN	86	36	62	-2	1.53	3	27.56	6.30	10.88	4.90
Jamestown	77	31	54	-7	1.84	2	30.05	10.48	12.40	6.67
Kingston_Spring	78	37	58	-5	2.38	4	23.88	4.19	10.79	5.07
Lawrenceburg_Fl	80	38	58	-5	1.56	3	25.15	3.19	12.14	6.00
Lewisburg	79	33	56	-7	1.90	3	28.41	7.69	13.15	7.01
Linden	75	38	57	-7	2.60	4	26.35	5.06	13.51	7.21
Livingston_WLIV	80	34	56	-7	2.14	4	32.68	13.54	13.59	7.97
Murfreesboro_5N	81	36	57	-8	1.74	3	24.97	5.33	10.99	5.13
Nashville_Metro	80	38	59	-6	2.30	3	22.57	4.68	10.12	4.47
Oneida	76	30	55	-5	1.79	2	31.03	11.35	12.20	6.39
Portland_TN	71	38	56	-7	2.14	3	28.83	9.87	12.79	7.13
Pulaski_Water_P	80	36	57	-9	1.26	3	27.91	6.76	13.12	7.36
Shelbyville	83	37	61	-4	1.15	3	27.93	7.10	11.56	5.61
Sparta_TN	82	34	57	-5	1.53	3	26.96	6.42	11.28	5.31
Springfield	72	38	56	-7	2.20	4	27.89	9.47	13.62	8.07
Springhill	79	38	58	-5	1.68	3	23.75	2.60	11.39	4.85
Tullahoma	83	35	60	-5	1.68	1	24.58	2.35	10.55	4.29
East										
Chattanooga/Lov	83	41	63	-2	0.87	1	28.10	6.92	9.71	4.26
Cleveland_6NNE	82	37	60	-3	1.25	1	22.62	1.43	8.19	2.56
Dayton	81	36	59	-5	1.16	1	27.23	5.31	10.53	4.63
Erwin_1W	85	36	58	-1	0.82	2	18.98	2.31	7.47	2.31
Gatlinburg_2SW	83	30	57	-3	1.23	3	23.00	3.47	8.55	2.96
Greeneville	84	32	58	-3	1.00	2	16.40	1.32	5.78	1.39
Kingston_AG	80	37	59	-3	1.08	1	26.56	4.60	10.11	4.23
Knoxville_AP	81	37	61	-3	0.88	1	23.95	5.88	9.99	5.24
Newcomb	78	34	56	-3	1.34	3	24.45	4.77	9.94	4.13
Norris_4NE	77	34	57	-5	1.45	1	25.67	6.36	9.12	3.70
Tri-City_RGNL_A	82	33	58	-3	0.83	2	18.18	3.55	5.43	1.17

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
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